

Beach repairs set to begin in Harvey Cedars

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The long-awaited Long Beach Island Project that promises to replenish the island's beaches for years to come will kick off sometime next week, according to local and federal officials.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it will begin trucking about 15,000 cubic yards of replenishment sand to a length of beach stretching about two blocks here.

The designated area runs from Salem to Cumberland avenues, or an area that borough Mayor Jonathan Oldham said has historically been one of the worst areas for beach erosion.

The area is about 900 feet of oceanfront, according to state officials.

No other beaches are currently scheduled for replenishment, according to Merv Brokke, public affairs officer for the Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District office.

"January or February we could start," he said. "We don't have a schedule."

The choice of Salem to Cumberland avenues also has something to do with seasonal erosion patterns. That area, Oldham said, is typically hardest hit during the winter.

The replenishment might make for some added traffic along the Causeway Bridge and Long Beach Boulevard.

Five to 10 dump trucks will make a combined total of 40 trips a day from the Sahara Sand Mine on Route 9 in West Creek.

It will take 45 days to complete the job.

A single cubic yard equals about a pick-up truck worth of sand, according to officials familiar with the project.

The cost of this part of the total LBI Project is about \$500,000, according to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

For this segment, the U.S. government is chipping in \$292,500; New Jersey, \$157,500; the borough, \$39,375; and Ocean County, an undetermined amount of the borough's portion.

The job represents only a tiny fraction of the overall LBI Project, which aims to keep LBI beaches up to snuff for 50 years. The total cost is \$159 million.

The project plans to build a 17-mile-long berm, or mound, 125-feet wide and as high as 30 feet at the crest, on LBI. Upon completion, periodic renewal work would be required.

Initial construction will require 7.5 million cubic yards of sand, a half-million feet of sand fencing and 350 acres of dune grasses.

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